

City of Northampton
Buy Local/Buy Fair Resolution
April 17, 2008

Upon recommendation of the Mayor and the Economic Development, Housing, and Land Use Committee of the City Council:

WHEREAS, the City of Northampton annually spends hundreds of thousands of dollars purchasing food, apparel and other goods; and

WHEREAS, the City of Northampton expresses its support for sustainable and equitable commerce and economic development; and

WHEREAS, locally owned businesses provide essential employment opportunities and contribute to the character and unique identity of our community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Northampton recognizes the important role that local businesses have in the diversity and sustainability of our economy and is strongly committed to growing our local business base; and

WHEREAS, fairly traded products provide fair prices for farmers; direct trade relationships for producers; decent working and living conditions and fair wages for workers, investment in local economies, and environmentally sustainable farming/production practices; and

WHEREAS, the City of Northampton, as a consumer, intends to be cognizant of the impact that our consumption has on the communities that produce the goods we purchase; and

WHEREAS, the City of Northampton intends that municipal funds are spent in an ethical manner and promote local economies both domestically and abroad whenever possible; and

WHEREAS, Buy Local and Fair Trade campaigns are an innovative approach to commerce, the purpose of which is to provide consumers and businesses with the opportunity to make a positive economic, social, and environmental impact locally and in communities around the world; and

WHEREAS, the City of Northampton has the opportunity to lead by example and present a model of economic, environmental, and social responsibility and sustainability.

Now, therefore be it Resolved,

The City of Northampton hereby establishes a Buy Local/Buy Fair policy to maximize purchase of locally produced, Fair Trade Certified, and/or fairly traded products from locally owned businesses in the process of procuring necessary goods for municipal operations when those products are available, comparably priced, of comparable quality, and procured in accordance

with the procurement laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and

As authorized under MGL Ch. 30B, Section 20, the City of Northampton hereby establishes a preference for products of agriculture grown or produced using products grown in the Commonwealth as defined in Section 1A of MGL Chapter 128 including, but not limited to, fruits, vegetables, eggs, dairy products, meats, crops, horticultural products and products processed into value added products as part of a Massachusetts farm operation as well as fish, seafood, and other aquatic products; and hereby directs the departmental and chief procurement officers to effectuate such preference in accordance with the procurement laws of the Commonwealth; and

The City of Northampton recognizes and supports the efforts of local organizations working to promote and support locally owned businesses and to increase consumer and business awareness of and commitment to buying local and fair trade; and

We, the City Council, do hereby decree Northampton a “FAIR TRADE TOWN” in the United States.

The following terms in this resolution shall be defined as follows:

Locally Produced – products grown, manufactured, or produced in Northampton or Western Massachusetts. Regionally produced products would include Massachusetts, New England, and the Northeastern states of the United States.

Fair Trade Certified – Products certified as meeting international fair trade standards by an independent, third-party, non-profit organization including but not limited to: TransFair USA, Fairtrade Labeling Organizations International (FLO), International Fair Trade Association (IFAT), Fair Trade Federation (FTF).

Fairly Traded – Products that meet the international fair trade standards but have not yet been certified by one of the certifying organizations.